Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 27, 28 and 52 have been amended, new claims 62-67 have been added, and claims 47-51 and 61 have been cancelled. Marked-up copies of the amended claims, illustrating the changes thereto, accompany this amendment.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required by this paper (including the fee for any additional extension of time) or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Steven J. Elleman
Reg. No. 41,733

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE
10 West Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
937-443-6838

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for forming a sensor comprising the steps of:

providing a base wafer;

forming a sensor cavity in said base wafer;

coupling a diaphragm wafer to said base wafer, said diaphragm wafer including a diaphragm portion, [and] a sacrificial portion, and an insulating layer disposed between said diaphragm portion and said sacrificial portion, and wherein said diaphragm wafer is coupled to said base wafer such said diaphragm portion generally covers said sensor cavity;

reducing the thickness of said diaphragm wafer by removing at least part of said sacrificial portion while using said insulating layer as an etch stop; and

forming or locating at least one piezo resistive portion on said diaphragm portion.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said diaphragm wafer is a silicon-on-insulator wafer including upper and lower silicon layers separated by [an] said insulating layer, and wherein said upper silicon layer includes said sacrificial portion and said lower silicon layer includes said diaphragm portion, and wherein said reducing step includes removing substantially all of [at least] said upper silicon layer of said diaphragm wafer located over said sensor cavity.

27. (Amended) A method for forming a sensor comprising the steps of:

providing a silicon base wafer;

forming a sensor cavity in said [upper] base wafer;

coupling a silicon diaphragm wafer to said base wafer by fusion silicon bonding, said diaphragm wafer including a diaphragm portion, at least one of said base wafer or said diaphragm being a silicon-on-insulator wafer having an upper silicon layer, a lower silicon layer, and an insulating layer disposed therebetween, and wherein said diaphragm

wafer is coupled to said base wafer such that said diaphragm portion generally covers said sensor cavity; and

forming or locating at least one piezo resistive portion on said diaphragm portion.

28. (Amended) A pressure sensor comprising:

a base portion including [a silicon bonding surface, said base portion further including] a sensor cavity;

a diaphragm portion having [a silicon bonding surface and] a single crystal silicon diaphragm <u>having a crystal plane orientation, said diaphragm being coupled to said base portion and located over said sensor cavity such that said diaphragm can flex and extend into or away from said sensor cavity when exposed to varying pressures, said diaphragm being aligned such that the crystal plane orientation of said diaphragm is generally not parallel or perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said pressure sensor</u>;

[a fusion silicon bonding area located between and coupling together said bonding surfaces of said diaphragm portion and base portion, wherein said diaphragm is located over said sensor cavity such that said diaphragm can flex and extend into said sensor cavity when exposed to varying pressures]; and

at least one piezo resistor located on said diaphragm such that flexure of said diaphragm causes a change in resistance in said at least one piezo resistor.

52. (Amended) A pressure sensor comprising:

a sensor body having a sensor cavity formed therein and a diaphragm generally covering said sensor cavity such that said diaphragm can flex into <u>or away from</u> said sensor cavity when said diaphragm is exposed to varying pressures; and

at least one piezo resistor located on said diaphragm, said at least one piezo resistor being elastic such that when a strain is applied to said piezo resistor in a first direction, the dimensions of said piezo resistor in a second direction perpendicular to said

applied strain are changed in a manner that changes the resistivity of the piezo resistor in an appreciable manner.